

## MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

## **United States Patent Application**

## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: RAPID EVACUATION AND CHARGING SYSTEM, AND APPARATUS AND METHODS RELATING THERETO

The specification of which a.   is attached hereto b.   was filed on as application described and claimed in internation United States patent.	on serial no. and was amend nal no. filed and as ame		e of a PCT-filed application) reviewed and for which I solicit a
I hereby state that I have reviewed any amendment referred to above.	and understand the contents of	the above-identified specification, in	ncluding the claims, as amended by
	so identified below any foreign of which priority is claimed:		application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before
FORE	EIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, (	CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC	§ 119
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	IGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, F	LED BEFORE THE PRIORITY APPLICATION IN THE PRIORITY APPLIC	CATION(S)
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120/365 of any United States and PCT international application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	STATUS (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

U.S. PROVISIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (Day, Month, Year)
60/246,796	8 NOVEMBER 2000

I acknowledge the duty to disclose in the tion that is material to the patentability of this cation in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 (reprinted below):

## § 1.56 Duty t disclose information material to patentability.

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- (a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:
  - (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.
- (b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and
  - (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim;
  - (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
    - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
    - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
  - (1) Each inventor named in the application:
  - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.
- (e) In any continuation-in-part application, the duty under this section includes the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability, as defined in paragraph (b) of this section, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

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I understand that the execution of this document, and the grant of a power of attorney, does not in itself establish an attorney-client relationship between the undersigned and the law firm Merchant & Gould P.C., or any of its attorneys.



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Please direct all correspondence in this case to Merchant & Gould P.C. at the address indicated below:

Merchant & Gould P.C. P.O. Box 2903 Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903



I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name DANIELSON	First Given Name ROBERT	Second Given Name B.
	Residence & Citizenship	City MAHTOMEDI	State or Foreign Country MINNESOTA	Country of Citizenship USA
	Mailing Address	Address 114 RIDGE WAY	City MAHTOMEDI	State & Zip Code/Country MINNESOTA 55115-1868/USA
gna	ture of Inventor 2	01:	D	ate:
all har b	Full Name Of Inventor	Family Name MEISINGER	First Given Name STANLEE	Second Given Name
Land Hall	Residence & Citizenship	City GOLDEN VALLEY	State or Foreign Country MINNESOTA	Country of Citizenship USA
	Mailing Address	Address 2240 AQUILA AVENUE NORTH	City GOLDEN VALLEY	State & Zip Code/Country MINNESOTA 55427/USA
ignature of Inventor 202:			D	ate: